

Regular Meeting of the Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks
Held at the Falls Church Community Center
223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Minutes
June 6, 2007

1. Call to Order

Mr. Meeks called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members present were Joyce Berg, Katherine Chandler, Rob Meeks, Gerard Mene, Ruth Rodgers, and Lawrence Webb. Staff present was Howard Herman, Director of Recreation, Daniel Schlitt, Senior Program Supervisor, and Linda Weikle, Senior Administrative Assistant. Vice Mayor Lindy Hockenberry was also present.

2. Receipt of Public Petitions and Board Member Petitions

Mr. Meeks asked if there were any petitions from the public or board members. There were none.

3. Minutes

Ms. Rodgers moved to approve the May 9, 2007 minutes. Mr. Webb seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed 5-0-1 (Mr. Mene abstained).

4. Recreation Director's Report

Mr. Herman reported:

- The attendance at the Memorial Day Parade and Festivities was good. There were still a couple breaks in the parade and staff will continue working on that. The Board requested a color guard at the beginning of the parade, and encouraging all parade participants to include an American flag. There was also discussion of distributing flags to the public along the parade route, which has been done in the past.
- The dance recital on June 2 went well.
- The Tinner Hill Festival was held at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School this year and is still struggling. Next year it will probably be moved back to Tinner Hill or to Cherry Hill Park.
- The Farmers' Market has had good attendance. One vendor dropped out at the last minute and has been replaced.
- Civil War Day had a good turnout and the weather was perfect. There was good participation from the Victorian Society, Historical Society, and re-enactors.

- Spring soccer is concluding this weekend. Volleyball is nearing the end of its season. Softball is starting. Summer basketball registration has started.
- The Recreation & Parks staff will be taking the lead for the City's employee picnic on June 22.
- Summer camp registration is going well. There have been a large number of credit and refund requests so staff will review that policy.
- The skateboard equipment has arrived. It is too heavy to move as frequently as was hoped. Madison Park will probably be the first location where it will be set up. One piece was broken when it arrived and a replacement is on its way.
- The Recreation & Parks Division is being re-organized due to Mr. Herman's promotion to General Manager of Community Services and an increase in the special events and activities programs. Danny Schlitt will be promoted to Deputy Director; Jenny Elmore to Senior Program Supervisor for Special Events; and Debbie Wright to Program Supervisor for Activities. The administrative assistant vacancy has been filled. Recruitment is underway for a Teen Coordinator (due to employee promotion) and a maintenance crew member (new position in budget).
- The Chamber of Commerce is withdrawing from planning the Taste of Falls Church in coordination with the Fall Festival. Staff will be meeting with the Chamber to see if Recreation staff can take over the planning for the event.

5. New Business

a. Open Space Acquisition

The Board indicated its desire for the City to be more proactive about acquiring properties near Roberts and Crossman Parks, and the "paper streets." The Board scheduled a meeting for July 11, 7 p.m., to discuss a property of interest.

b. Rectangular Field/Neighboring Jurisdiction

Mr. Herman reported that he had contacted Arlington County and they very open to an agreement to share a field. They also indicated that they had no funding now to pay for field improvements. There are a couple of possible sites to share.

c. Big Chimneys Park Public Hearing

Mr. Meeks opened the public hearing. Mr. Herman reviewed the proposed Big Chimneys Park Master Plan.

Ron Anzalone, 212 W. Cameron Rd., representing the Historical Commission, stated the Commission's appreciation that the footprint and interpretive sign of the Big Chimneys Tavern would remain on the site. He noted that those items were omitted from the list of existing facilities. He volunteered to work with the Board throughout the site plan process.

Nader Baroukh, 243 Gundry Dr., thanked the Board for its work on the master plan, noting that it was a good plan. He reiterated the need to have a buffer between the development and residential area on the eastern edge of the park.

Ms. Hockenberry said she has requested that a tree study be completed soon.

Ms. Berg moved to close the public hearing and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. Upon unanimous voice vote, the hearing was closed.

The following changes to the master plan were proposed:

- Page 1, paragraph 3, next to the last sentence: Add “future” before City Center so that the sentence reads “The future City Center development will significantly impact the Park.”
- Page 3, F. Existing Facilities/Amenities: Add 7. Big Chimneys footprint; 8. Interpretive Sign.
- Page 4, first sentence: Add Gibson Street. Correct numbers on paragraphs.
- Page 4, Landscape Buffers, second sentence: Add Gibson Street.
- Page 4, Landscape Buffers, third sentence: Take out “the” before “potential commercial/residential,” and add Gibson Street.
- Page 5, second paragraph, second sentence: Add “For example,” at the beginning of the sentence, and “, or elsewhere as development discussions continue” at the end of the sentence.
- Page 6, at the end of the last paragraph: Add “If a “park” zoning district is not established the City should rezone Big Chimneys Park to R1B to be consistent with other park zoning.”

Ms. Berg moved to approve the Big Chimneys Master Plan as amended; Mr. Webb seconded the motion. Upon unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

6. Old Business

a. Project Updates

Thomas Jefferson field is open, and staff has received a lot of positive feedback about the project.

The Community Center generator bids are due June 8. The bid chosen will go to City Council for approval in late June.

Staff will be meeting with the neighbors of 215 S. Lee St. in the near future.

Staff is looking for a landscape architect for the Frady Park project.

7. Other Business

It was reported that trash from a nearby business is blowing into West End Park. Staff will have Zoning or DES contact the business owner.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Mene moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Berg seconded the motion. Following a unanimous voice vote, Mr. Meeks adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

(Approved September 5, 2007)

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